

Addressing Resource Equity Will Improve Student Achievement
Support the Kirk, Reed, Baldwin, Brown Opportunity Dashboard of Core Resources
Amendment

All students should have access to a high-quality education, and schools should be able to get the resources they need to help students excel in education and in life. These resources include access to qualified teachers, rigorous coursework, health and wellness programs, high-quality early learning programs, school library programs, music and arts courses, and other opportunities that are important for student success. These critical resources are necessary to meet student needs and create the conditions for learning to take place.

Unfortunately, too many students across the country, and particularly low-income and minority students, do not have access to the opportunities they need to graduate from high school college and career ready. The Opportunity Dashboard of Core Resources amendment addressing resource equity is a step forward to remedying persistent inequities and ensuring that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Specifically, this amendment would:

- **Use existing data on resource equity to drive improvements.** Under the Every Child Achieves Act, states are already required to report on measures of climate and discipline, teacher qualifications, per-pupil expenditures, access to advanced coursework, and many other indicators. This amendment uses existing data, in addition to other measures, to help states identify and address resource gaps across school districts.
- **Require action when inequities exist in access to resources.** While reporting is a helpful tool, it will not remedy the persistent inequities that exist in access to resources across the country. That is why this amendment requires states to develop a plan, including a timeline with annual benchmarks, to ensure that resources and supports reach school districts with the highest needs.
- **Focus on the whole child.** This amendment moves beyond test scores to focus on the diverse opportunities that children need to be successful in school. By including indicators like access to dedicated school library programs, music, advanced coursework, and the arts, states can drive improvements to provide more holistic education that moves beyond reading and math.
- **Give states the flexibility to design a plan that works for local communities.** This amendment does not tell states *how* to address inequities, it just requires them to identify disparities in critical resources and work with school districts to make a plan to address them. States are free to work with school districts to design a plan that works for local communities.
- **Allow states to focus on equity.** Every resource indicator under this amendment would be required to be disaggregated by income, race, language proficiency, and disability status. This will help states focus resources on traditionally underserved populations to ensure that they have the supports they need to succeed.